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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
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R 221348Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2232
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 3548

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, UY
SUBJ: OPEN LETTER TO NEWSPAPERS BY SECRETARY
TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 3296, (B) MONTEVIDEO 3297, (C) MONTEVIDEO 3321

1. APPARENTLY IN REFERENCE TO A TAPE, BEING CLANDESTINELY CIRCULATED, IN WHICH WILSON FERREIRA ACCUSED HIM OF FINGERING URUGUAYANS TO BE KILLED IN ARGENTINA, PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY LUIS VARGAS GURMENDIA WROTE AN OPEN LETTER, DENOUNCING THE ACCUSATION. THE LETTER APPEARED IN ALL FOUR MONTEVIDEO NEWSPAPERS. IN THE LETTER, WHICH APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 19TH EDITIONS, VARGAS STATED THAT, "OUTSIDE THIS COUNTRY CERTAIN DESPICABLE HUMAN BEINGS HAVE BROUGHT FORTH AN INFAMOUS SLANDER AGAINST MY PERSON IN WHICH THEY ACCUSE ME, DURING THE TIME I WAS SUBSECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, OF BEING THE INSTIGATOR OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. THE AUTHOR OF THIS LIBEL IS WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE, A MAN WITHOUT HONOR, HAVING BEEN DEGRADED BY HIS PARANOID IMPULSES, WHOM ONLY DISTANCE PREVENTS ME FROM CONFRONTING IN THE ONLY FIELD OF ACTION THAT CAN MAKE AMENDS FOR THIS INSULT".

2. THE LETTER GOES ON TO STATE THAT, "IF THERE WAS ANY-
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THING I HAVE DONE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR DURING MY
TENURE THERE, IT WAS TO CONTRIBUTE WITH ALL MY STRENGTH TO
THE OBJECTIVE THAT URUGUAY LEAVE BEHIND THE CHAOS AND VIOLENCE
TO WHICH IT WAS BROUGHT BY PEOPLE LIKE THE AFOREMENTIONED".

3. THE LETTER CLOSES WITH THE STATEMENT THAT , "IT IS MY
PURPOSE TO RESPOND ON THIS OCCASION TO THE DEFAMATION OF
WHICH I WAS THE OBJECT AND NOT TO REFER AGAIN PUBLICLY TO
THIS EPISODE".

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